(c) and (d) No, Sir. Though the market price of rice has increased during 2007-08 compared to previous year, it is affordable to the common people. The Government is also making available rice at subsidized rates to the people through the Public Distribution System.

(e) There is no shortage of rice in the country.

(f) During 2007-08, the domestic price of rice started showing upward trend. With a view to contain the rise in price of rice in the domestic market and increase availability of rice in the country, export of non-basmati rice has been banned w.e.f. 1st April, 2008. However, the export of PUSA-1121 variety of non-basmati rice has been permitted with immediate effect by Notification No.39 (RE-2008) 2004-2009 dated 16th September, 2008. Further, a minimum export price has been fixed for export of basmati rice. Presently, MEP of basmati rice is US $ 1200 per ton or Rs.48,000 per ton w.e.f. 1.4.2008. In addition, a customs duty of Rs.8000 per ton has been imposed on export of basmati rice vide Notification dated 10.5.2008. The Government is continuously monitoring the domestic price and availability of rice in the country.

Production of foodgrains in North-East

2. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of rice and other foodgrains varies from State to State in North-East Region;

(b) if so, the production rate of foodgrains on an average, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has identified the reasons for the downward trend in the production-rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent of support price being provided item-wise and quantity of foodgrains purchased by Government during the last three years in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of rice and other foodgrains varies from State to State in North-East Region. The State-wise production rate (productivity) of foodgrains in the North-East Region during 2004-2005 to 2006-07 is given in the Statement—I. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Productivity fo different foodgrains in the Region shows year to year fluctuation. The productivity of agricultural crops depends on a number of factors like rainfall, quality seeds, fertilizers, pests and diseases, among others.

(e) The item-wise Minimum Support Price during the last three years, applicable to all the States, is given in the Statement—II. (*See* below)

In Assam, 1000 tonnes of rice was procured during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2005-06. No procurement of rice done in the North-East Region during KMS 2006-07 and 2007-08. No quantity of wheat has been procured in the last three Rabi Marketing Seasons in the North-East Region.

Statement-I

State-wise Production Rate (Productivity) of Foodgrains in North-East Region

(Yield kg/Hectare)

State/UT	Rice			Wheat			Coarse Cereals			Pulses			Foodgrains		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Arunachal Pradesh	1110	1195	1195	2023	1525	1575	1269	1241	1249	1046	1078	1078	1178	1212	1216
Assam	1460	1468	1332	1066	1074	1117	662	659	720	571	537	557	1405	1416	1286
Manipur	2472	2322	2322	not Grown	not Grown	not Grown	2781	2724	2724	380	523	523	2390	2241	2241
Meghalaya	1737	1508	1916	1778	1774	2000	1349	1347	1388	1385	750	744	1674	1455	1800
Mizoram	1900	1778	599	not Grown	not Grown	not Grown	2093	1940	1963	1297	1215	1160	1888	1754	822
Nagaland	1698	1682	1600	1585	1583	867	1675	1612	1394	797	1281	1200	1577	1615	1482
Tripura	2247	2260	2472	2545	2636	1800	1071	1000	960	618	629	654	2179	2194	2399

Statement—II

Minimum support price of foodgrains during last three years.

Sl.No.	Commodity	Variety	2006—07	2007—08	2008—09
	KHARIF CROPS				
1.	Paddy	Common	580^	645$$/850~	850
		Grade 'A'	610^	675$$/880~	880
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	540	600	840
		Maldandi	555	620	860
3.	Bajra		540	600	840
4.	Maize		540	620	840
5.	Ragi		540	600	915
6.	Arhar (Tur)		1410	1550^^	2000
7.	Moong		1520	1700^^	2520
8.	Urad		1520	1700^^	2520
	RABI CROPS				
9.	Wheat		750$$	1000	*
10.	Barley		565	650	*
11.	Gram		1445	1600	*
12.	Masur (Lentil)		1545	1700	*

$$An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal is payable over the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

^ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable on procurement between 1.10.2006 to 31.03.2007.

^^ A bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable over and above the MSP.

~ From 12.06.2008

* To be announced.

Consumption of meat products

3. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita rate of consumption of meat and meat products in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the total number of animals slaughtered for meat in India risen to 106,239,000 head;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the export of animal meat products has also grown exponentially in the recent years to South East Asian, South African and Commonwealth States;